

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135960

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR BA

SUBJECT:BAHRAIN DEFENSE FORCE REQUEST FOR RANGER TRAINING

REF: MANAMA 0427

1. REFTEL'S PROPOSAL FOR POSSIBLE RANGER TRAINING FOR
FOUR BAHRAIN DEFENSE FORCE (BDF) LIEUTENANTS ACCEPTABLE
TO DEPARTMENT AND DOD. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION
ON RANGER TRAINING COURSE AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA,
WAS PROVIDED BY DOD:

(A) COURSES ARE EIGHT WEEKS IN LENGTH AND CONVENE
ELEVEN TIMES A YEAR, ROUGHLY ONE PER MONTH. RANGER
TRAINING IS REQUIRED FOR MANY U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL,
AND ENROLLMENT IS VERY TIGHT, WITH FIRST SCHEDULED
OPENINGS IN APRIL 1975. ONCE GOB COMMITMENT IS FIRM,
HOWEVER, AND IN VIEW OF SMALL NUMBERS INVOLVED, DOD IS
WILLING TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF WORKING BAHRAINIS
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INTO SCHEDULE EARLIER, IF GOB CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT

TO BEGIN THIS TRAINING SOONER THAN APRIL 1975.

(B) PHYSICAL PREREQUISITES FOR ACCEPTANCE IN TRAINING PROGRAM ARE RIGOROUS AND REJECTION RATE IS HIGH. DETAILS OF PREREQUISITES WILL BE PROVIDED LATER IF BAHRAINIS INDICATE FIRM INTENT TO ACCEPT TRAINING. HOWEVER,

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES INCLUDE 15 METER SWIM FULLY CLOTHED WITH COMBAT GEAR AND WEAPON, TWO MILE RUN IN 16.5 MINUTES, INVERTED CRAWL 20 YARDS IN 25 SECONDS.

(C) PRICE OF TRAINING COURSE IS DOLLARS 2360 PER PERSON. NO-COST TRAINING WOULD REQUIRE SPECIAL FUNDING OR FORMAL EXCEPTION TO PRESENT U.S. ARMY POLICY.

2. YOU MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IN PROVIDING PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO BDF CHIEF OF STAFF. NO-COST TRAINING PRESENTS NUMBER OF PROBLEMS. NORMALLY, BASIC TRAINING SUCH AS THIS WOULD BE COVERED BY FMS CASE IN WHICH GOB WOULD REIMBURSE U.S. ARMY FOR TOTAL DOLLARS 9440 TRAINING COSTS. ALTHOUGH ONE-TIME COST MIGHT BE COVERED BY POLICY EXCEPTION OR EXTRAORDINARY FUNDING, IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE TO ESTABLISH PRECEDENT WHICH COULD NOT RPT NOT BE MAINTAINED FOR FUTURE TRAINING REQUESTS. REQUEST YOU SOUND OUT BAHRAINIS FURTHER ON FUNDING QUESTION. DOD WILL CONTINUE EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE FUNDING, BUT NO COMMITMENT TO WAIVE TRAINING COSTS SHOULD BE MADE OR IMPLIED AT THIS POINT. KISSINGER

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